

From: Daniel Jorjani
To: downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov
Cc: cyounger@blm.gov; heather_swift@ios.doi.gov; Aaron Moody
Subject: Fwd: WSJ - Questions on GSENM and dinos
Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 9:10:44 AM
Attachments: [attachedFile.html](#)
[WSJ qs and as \(1\).docx](#)

Good edits from Aaron, ccd.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Moody, Aaron" <aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov>
Date: February 14, 2018 at 9:07:47 AM EST
To: Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: WSJ - Questions on GSENM and dinos

Some suggestions/comments in the attached.

Aaron G. Moody
Assistant Solicitor, Branch of Public Lands
Division of Land Resources
Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-3495

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On Wed, Feb 14, 2018 at 6:53 AM, Daniel Jorjani <daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov> wrote:

Thoughts?

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Downey Magallanes <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>
Date: February 13, 2018 at 11:14:07 PM EST
To: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Cally Younger <cyounger@blm.gov>, daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov
Subject: Re: WSJ - Questions on GSENM and dinos

Adding Dan

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 13, 2018, at 6:38 PM, Swift, Heather
<heather_swift@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Q/A from WSJ below

1) Is there room for responsible mineral development near known Paleontological sites? If so, what sort of measures would be taken to protect the fossils and access for scientists to study them?

Absolutely. This is already happening across the west. First of all, all of the areas that are known to have the highest concentration of paleontological resources are still contained within the monument boundaries. Second, it is illegal to remove fossils or native american artifacts from federal land without the proper permit. These permits are generally reserved for scientific and historic purposes. Lastly, extensive analysis is done before any energy development on federal lands, and if development would induce irreparable damage to irreplaceable objects then the project could be denied or modified.

2) The President's proclamation allows mineral leasing in the reopened parts of the Grand Staircase and Bears Ears monuments. But I understand there have been no applications for leasing permits since the BLM on Feb. 1 said it would begin accepting them. Local Utah lawmakers say that's because the coal market is already saturated there and exploration for other

minerals still faces fierce opposition and a long permitting process. Did Interior expect low demand for this? Do you expect interest will pick up eventually?

Interior did not expect there to be a large clamor towards development. The Secretary said repeatedly that the monument review was not focused on oil and gas. This is further evidenced by the fact that the Department supports Rep. Curtis' mineral withdrawal on the land that formerly fell within the Bears Ears boundary.

3) Would the construction of new roads to access mineral sites open up the dinosaur areas to vandalism and looting, as the paleontologists fear?

This is a false argument. If somebody was focused on breaking the law to steal or vandalize, they wouldn't wait for construction of a dirt road to do it.

4) By breaking up the old GSENM and Bears Ears into monument and non-monument areas, scientists say that has made the permitting system for Paleontological work much harder. ie, some scientists who had monument permits now have to apply for BLM permits because their research site now sits outside of the old monument. Do you agree this is a problem?

We agree that the government permitting process is often burdensome and overly complicated for everything from building a telephone pole to weed control. We are working with stakeholders to streamline the

permitting process across the board.

5) Finally, can I get a general comment on whether you agree the Paleontological remains in both Grand Staircase and Bears Ears are important and need to be protected?

We do agree, which is why the Secretary has kept paleontological resources under federal protection. <see q 1>

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
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Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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1) Is there room for responsible mineral development near known Paleontological sites? If so, what sort of measures would be taken to protect the fossils and access for scientists to study them?

(b) (5) ACP, (b) (5) DPP

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5) DPP, (b) (5) ACP, (b) (5) AWPP

3) Would the construction of new roads to access mineral sites open up the dinosaur areas to vandalism and looting, as the paleontologists fear?

(b) (5) DPP

[Redacted]

4) By breaking up the old GSENM and Bears Ears into monument and non-monument areas, scientists say that has made the permitting system for Paleontological work much harder. ie, some scientists who had monument permits now have to apply for BLM permits because their research site now sits outside of the old monument. Do you agree this is a problem?

[Redacted]

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(b) (5) ACP, (b) (5) DPP

5) Finally, can I get a general comment on whether you agree the Paleontological remains in both Grand Staircase and Bears Ears are important and need to be protected?

(b) (5) ACP, (b) (5) DPP

ACP, (b) (5)